

REMARKS

After this amendment, claims 1-54 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 2, 7, 11-13, 15, 18, 26, 31, 33, 35 and 49 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Reconsideration of the Application as amended is requested.

In the present Office Action dated November 30, 2006, claims 53 and 54 are indicated as being withdrawn from consideration. Applicant withdrew the claims from consideration in response to a restriction requirement dated March 21, 2006. The Examiner had previously withdrawn the restriction requirement of March 21, 2006, and entered a new restriction requirement dated July 17, 2006, to which Applicant filed a response on September 11, 2006. However, given the fact that claims 1-52 are indicated as having been examined in the present Office Action, Applicant presumes that the restriction requirement of July 17, 2006 has been withdrawn and the former restriction requirement of March 21, 2006 has been reinstated.

In the Office Action dated November 30, 2006, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 35, 37, 39-43, 46-50 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Blount et al. (U.S. 6,205,090). The Examiner contends that Blount et al. describes a control device comprising a processor (36) operable for automatically interpreting the correction signal to determine which of a plurality of predetermined correction schemes was used by the master time keeper to format the control signal. Claims 1, 35 and 49 have been herein amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that the control signal is automatically analyzed electronically to determine which correction scheme was used to format the correction signal. In contrast, Blount et al. does not anticipate, teach or suggest the claimed combination of elements. In particular, the clock system described in Blount et al. does not electronically analyze the correction signal to automatically determine which correction scheme was used to format the correction signal. Rather, a user must manually select the appropriate correction scheme by physically manipulating a plurality of switches or relay devices associated with correction scheme selector (36). *See*

column 3, lines 52-57 of Blount et al. Moreover, neither correction scheme selector (36) nor controller (38) is described in Blount et al. as performing any electronic analysis of the correction signal in an effort to determine which correction scheme was used to format the signal. To the contrary, a user must manually adjust the series of switches or relay devices on correction scheme selector (36) in order to inform controller (38) which correction scheme was used to format the correction signal. There is nothing automatic about the process, and it is entirely up to the user to properly select the appropriate correction scheme by manually setting the switches or relay devices on correction scheme selector (36) to correspond with the correction scheme being used. Applicant accordingly requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 35, 37, 39-43, 46-50 and 52.

Claims 36, 44, 45 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blount et al. (U.S. 6,205,090) in view of Shemesh et al. (U.S. 2004/0165438). It is submitted that Applicant's invention, as set forth in claims 36, 44 and 45, which depend directly from claim 35, and claim 51, which depends directly from claim 49, patentably define over the cited references as combined by the Examiner for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to the patentability of Applicant's invention over Blount et al. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 4, 7-34 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blount et al. (U.S. 6,205,090) in view of Shin et al. (U.S. 2004/0152224). It is submitted that Applicant's invention, as set forth in claims 4 and 38, which depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 35, respectively, patentably define over the cited references as combined by the Examiner for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to the patentability of Applicant's invention over Blount et al. Regarding claims 7-17, claim 7 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that the correction scheme used to format the correction signal is determined by electronically analyzing an encoded signal used to identify the correction scheme. In contrast, neither Blount et al. nor Shin et al. disclose sending a separate signal for identifying the correction scheme used to format the control signal. Furthermore, neither of the cited references, taken individually or in any permissible

combination, anticipate, teach or suggest electronically analyzing a signal separate from the control signal as a means for determining which correction scheme is being used. As discussed previously, Blount et al. requires the user to manually select the appropriate correction scheme by physically manipulating a plurality of switches or relay devices associated with correction scheme selector (36). *See* column 3, lines 52-57 of Blount et al. Moreover, neither correction scheme selector (36) nor controller (38) of Blount et al. is described as performing any electronic analysis of an encoded signal in order to determine which correction scheme is used to format the signal. To the contrary, a user must manually adjust the series of switches or relay devices associated with correction scheme selector (36) in order to inform controller (38) which correction scheme was used to format the correction signal. Regarding claims 18-34, it is submitted that the cited references, whether taken singularly or in any permissible combination, do not anticipate, teach, or suggest the claimed invention. Neither reference discloses sending an encoded signal that defines the unrecognized correction scheme used to format the correction signal. The clock system described in Blount et al. is not capable of handling an unrecognized correction scheme. The correction scheme must correspond to one of the correction schemes that can be selected using correction scheme selector (36). If the correction scheme does not correspond with one of the manually selectable correction schemes, Blount et al. does not disclose any mechanism for determining the appropriate correction scheme. Moreover, no mechanism is disclosed in Blount et al. for receiving and analyzing an encoded signal defining the unrecognized correction scheme. The deficiencies in Blount et al. are not be overcome by the addition of Shin et al. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is

Date: April 30, 2007

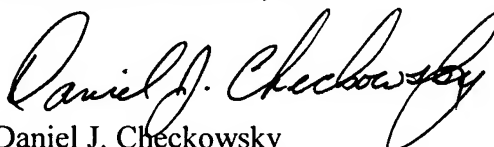
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respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & BASILE, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel J. Checkowsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" and last name "Checkowsky" clearly legible.

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